

- ART. XIV. 1. *Second Annual Report of the Directors of the Marine Insane Hospital.* December, 1841. Augusta, Me., 1841, pp. 56.
2. *Ninth Annual Report of the Trustees of the State Lunatic Hospital, at Worcester, (Mass.)* December, 1841. Boston, 1842, pp. 102.
3. *State of the New York Hospital and Bloomingdale Asylum, for the year 1841.* New York, 1842, pp. 132.
4. *Twenty-fifth Annual Report on the State of the "Asylum for the Relief of Persons deprived of the use of their Reason."* Philadelphia, 1842, pp. 30.
5. *Third Annual Report of the Directors and Superintendent of the Ohio Lunatic Asylum, to the Fortieth General Assembly.* Columbus, (Ohio,) 1841, pp. 60.
6. *Annual Report of the Court of Directors of the Western Lunatic Asylum, to the Legislature of Virginia; with the Report of the Physician, for 1841.* Richmond, Va., 1842, pp. 80.
7. *Report of the Superintendent of the Eastern Lunatic Asylum, Williamsburg, Virginia, from July 1st, 1841, to December 31st, 1841.*
8. *Extracts from a Lecture on Insanity; delivered before the Young Men's Association of the city of Utica.* February 18th, 1842. By C. B. Coventry, M. D.
9. *What shall we do with the Insane of the Western Country?* By Edward Jarvis, M. D.
10. *Fifth Annual Report of the Trustees of the Vermont Asylum for the Insane.* October 25th, 1841.
11. *Report of the Trustees of the State Lunatic Asylum, with the documents accompanying the same, to the Legislature of the State of New York.* pp. 203.

As faithful chroniclers of the progress of our profession in all its departments, our duty leads us to record the current medical history of the public institutions for the insane, while our admiration for a noble philanthropy renders that duty a pleasure. In regard to the rapid, efficient, practical improvement in the means for the comfortable accommodation and judicious treatment of those afflicted with mental alienation, the annals of the world can probably furnish no parallel to the United States. The actual progress in the establishment of lunatic asylums in this country, is thus noticed in the Sixteenth Annual Report of the Prison Discipline Society.—"It appears that one institution was established, and another used for the insane, in the eighteenth century. Two were established in the first twenty years of the nineteenth century; three from 1820 to 1830; eight from 1830 to 1840; and six are opened, provided for, or being built in 1840 and 1841, besides much preparation for three others." The last annual reports of several of these institutions being now before us, we proceed to collect therefrom the most important and valuable facts.

1. During the past year, the number of admissions into the Maine Insane Hospital was 105, of which 62 were of men, and 43 of women. Discharged in the same time, 79. Of the 105 admissions, 45 were of less duration than one year, and 60 were of longer standing. Of the 79 discharged, 38 were recent cases, of which 27 recovered, and 3 died; and 41 were chronic, of which 6 recovered, and 3 died. Per centage of deaths on the whole number in the hospital, 4.5. The elaborate report of Dr. Ray, the superintending physician, is chiefly devoted to an exposition of the object of asylums for the insane, their paramount utility in the treatment of mental disorders, and the great importance of resorting to them in the early stages of the disease. This is intended particularly for the people of Maine, in order, by giving them accurate ideas of the disease and of its appropriate remedies, to induce them to avail themselves of the benefits of the institution more generally than has hitherto been done. The sentiments contained in one portion of this report are so frequently met with in the similar publications of other asylums, and their importance being such as to require a wide dissemination, we extract the paragraph entire. "Above all things, in order to obtain the confidence of our patients, we find it necessary to abstain from every kind of deception in our dealings with them. Nothing irritates an

insane person, or paralyses the efforts of others to help him, more than deception, which, with his strong disposition to suspicion, inevitably makes an unfavourable impression upon his mind. Whenever he discovers it, and sooner or later he will, he regards the author of it as one of his enemies, who are banded together to deceive, tease and harass him. If people were generally aware of this trait in the insane, they would be more cautious how they endeavour to obtain the smallest point by any other than honest and straightforward means. Scarcely a patient is brought to us who has been correctly informed respecting the nature of the place he is going to, or how long he is to remain. The consequence is, when he discovers the deception, that he imbibes an aversion towards his friends that may not very easily be overcome, and looks upon us as parties to the wrong that has been done him. Thus, at the very outset, we are met by a serious difficulty which it may require weeks or months for us to remove."

2. The Ninth Report of the Massachusetts State Lunatic Hospital, like all which have emanated from the pen of Dr. Woodward, is fraught with subjects of deep interest to the physician, the philanthropist, and all who regard the welfare of suffering humanity. During the past year, 73 men and 90 women, a total of 163 patients, have been received into this hospital. These, with the 236 remaining at the commencement of the year, make 399 who have enjoyed the benefits of the institution during that period. Discharged or died, men 77, women 90. Of the former, 38 were restored, and 7 died; of the latter, 44 were restored, and 5 died. Of the admissions, 84 were recent cases, and 79 chronic. Of the discharges, 68 were recent cases, of which 62 were restored, and 4 died; and 99 were chronic, of which 20 were restored, and 8 died. At the close of the year, there remained in the hospital 116 men, and 116 women; total, 232. The daily average number of patients, for the year, was 233. The report states that the hospital is always full, and during the past year, 91 applications have been rejected for want of room.

During the nine years that the hospital has been in operation, 1359 patients have been admitted, of whom 710 were men, and 649 women. Single, 715; married, 508; widows, 88; widowers, 48. The whole number of recoveries was 588; of deaths, 102. According to Dr. Woodward's observations, "spring affords the greatest number of cases, autumn the greatest number of recoveries, and summer the greatest number of deaths."

We extract the following paragraph, because its testimony goes to controvert a generally received opinion in regard to the age at which insanity is the most susceptible of cure.

"It still continues to be an interesting fact, deducible from our records, that persons attacked with insanity after 40 years of age, recover in much greater proportion than those attacked before that age."

The number of patients in each decennium of life, admitted during the nine years, was as follows:—Under 20 years of age, 79; between twenty and thirty, 356; thirty and forty, 383; forty and fifty, 275; fifty and sixty, 144; sixty and seventy, 88; seventy and eighty, 35; over eighty, 1.

Of 99 patients who have died, (the proper data whereon to base the calculation, not being attainable in the remaining 6,) the average age at the commencement of the disease was, in men, 41 years, 6 months; in women, 42 years, 3 months; mean, 41 years, 10 months, 15 days. The average duration of life after the individuals became insane, was, in men, 6 years, 5 months, 19 days; in women, 3 years, 3 months, 12 days; mean, 4 years, 4 months, 15½ days. The average age at which the 99 died was, in men, 47 years, 2 months; in women, 45 years, 6 months, 12 days; mean, 46 years, 4 months, 6 days.

In a large number of paroxysmal cases, the commencement of the paroxysms have been observed in reference to the several phases of the moon. After having stated the results of these observations, Dr. Woodward says:—"These facts and coincidences we leave for the present, with the single remark, that no theory seems to be supported by them, which has existed either among the ignorant or the wise men who have been believers in the influence of the moon upon the insane."

An impression prevails to some extent in the community, and particularly among the members of the medical profession, that the superintendent of the hospital at Worcester professes to effect a restoration of the insane, in a far greater proportion of the cases under treatment, than has heretofore been the result in other institutions of the kind. This impression we believe to be erroneous. It certainly is not sustained by the facts embodied in his reports. We quote his own language from the report before us. "The average of recoveries of cases of less duration than one year, is now 88 per cent. for the whole time, and is as great as can ever be expected. The per cent. of *all the recovered on all the admissions* in this hospital, is now *forty-three and one-third*, and the per cent. of discharges recovered, on the admissions this year, is fifty and one-third." The proportion (88 per cent.) of recent cases, above-mentioned, is upon the *discharges*. In another place, he states that the proportion of cures of recent cases on the whole number of *admissions* is 83.75 per cent., and of chronic cases 20.33 per cent. Setting aside the distinction between recent and chronic cases, and adopting the only unambiguous basis of comparison, that of the proportion of cures on the whole number of admissions, we proceed to notice the results in some of the British institutions. At the Retreat, near York, Eng., the cures during forty-four years, ending in 1840, were equivalent to 47.31 per cent.; at the Exeter Asylum, from 1801 to 1840, 52.43 per cent.; at Bethlehem Hospital, London, from 1829 to 1840, 50.96 per cent.; at the Gloucestershire Asylum, from 1823 to 1832, 44.94 per cent.; at the Asylum at Wakefield, from 1818 to 1841, 44.18 per cent.; at the Asylum of Aberdeen, Scotland, from 1830 to 1840, 45.12 per cent.; and at the Armagh Asylum, Ireland, from 1825 to 1840, 45.27 per cent. In all of these, as well as in several other British institutions, the proportion of cures *exceeds* that at Worcester; while, on the contrary, at the asylums of Kent, Lancaster, Hanwell, Nottingham, St. Luke's of London, Lincoln, Dundee, Montrose, Connaught, Waterford, and some others, the similar proportion is *less* than that at Worcester. The average per centage of cures in eleven Irish asylums, is stated at 45.91, which exceeds by 1.58 that at Worcester. While we are fully sensible that an accurate, detailed comparison of the results of different asylums can be effected in no way other than by a consideration of numerous circumstances and conditions in the nature, organization and rules of the institutions themselves, yet we believe that the comparison here instituted does not sufficiently involve those conditions to prevent an approximation, at least, towards the truth. It has been made with no other motive than that suggested above—to correct an erroneous impression. While we have shown that the results of several institutions have been more favourable than those at Worcester, we are firmly convinced that all other conditions and influences being equal, the asylum under the care of Dr. W. would present as large a proportion of cures as any other.

3. Although foreign to the special object of this notice, yet as conveying important information, we quote the following synopsis of the results of treatment in the New York Hospital. "The number of patients in the Hospital on the 31st of December, 1840, was 187; and there were admitted during the year 1841, 2000; making a total of 2187 persons who have received the benefits of the institution in the course of the year. Of this number, there have been cured 1501; relieved, 84; discharged on their own request, 163; discharged as improper subjects, 26; eloped or discharged as disorderly, 40; died, 193; remaining, 180."

By the comparatively brief, but well written report of Dr. Wilson, of the Bloomingdale Asylum, a detached department of the New York Hospital, it appears that the number of patients in that institution, at the commencement of the year, was 131; admitted during the year, 102; total, 233. Discharged or died during the same period, 100; remaining at the close of the year, 133. Of the 102 admissions, 71 were of recent, and 31 of chronic cases. Of the discharges, 58 were recent, of which 46 were cured, and 5 died; 42 were chronic, of which 9 were cured, and 13 died. "The number of deaths during the year," says the report, "has been unusually large; not the consequence of any epide-

mic, but rather of the accumulation of old cases, and the necessary progress and termination of extensive organic disease." This asylum "rejects no application for admission, whatever the state or condition of the patient, curable or incurable, in ordinary physical health, or *in articulo mortis*."

The following tabular extract exhibits the most important result of treatment, from 1823 to 1841 inclusive:—

	Admitted.	Recovered.	Per cent.
Chronic cases,	1037	120	11.5
Recent "	1336	1020	76.33

The following table is more elaborate, and includes a greater number of cases, being all those admitted from 1821 to 1841 inclusive.

	Men.	Women.	Total.	Died.
Admitted,	1692	906	2598	240
Recovered,	848	352	1200	
Per cent.	50.12	38.84	46.20	9.25

4. The number of patients at the Frankford Asylum, at the commencement of the year, was 58; admitted during the year, 39; discharged, 36; died, 3; remaining at the end of the year, 58. Of the 36 discharged, there were restored, 13; much improved, 4; improved, 10; stationary, 9. Five of those discharged, unrestored, were apparently curable, and would probably have recovered had they remained a sufficient length of time under of treatment. The proportion of chronic and incurable cases, among those admitted, was unusually large. During the twenty-five years that this asylum has been in operation, the number of admissions has been 784. Of these, 149 were re-admissions of 96 individuals, leaving but 635 persons received as patients. Of these 635, 263 were restored, 65 much improved, and 87 died. "Of the 96 patients re-admitted, there were discharged restored, 49; much improved, 4; improved, 10; stationary, 9; died, 17; remaining, 7. Twenty-eight were admitted a third time; of whom there were discharged, restored, 16; improved, 3; stationary, 5; died, 2; remaining, 2. Eight were admitted a fourth time, of whom 6 were restored, 1 much improved, and 1 died. Two returned a fifth time, of whom one is stationary, and the other recovering; one, a sixth time, and was discharged, recovered; and two ten times each, of whom one died, and the other recovered."

5. In the Ohio Lunatic Asylum, there were, at the commencement of the year, 138 patients, 73 men and 65 women. Admitted during the year, 85; discharged, 81; remaining at the end of the year, 142. Average number during the year, 143. Of those discharged, there were 44 recovered, 5 improved, 18 incurable; and 14 died.

During the three years since this asylum was opened, 186 men and 157 women, a total of 343 patients, have been received. In the same period, 201 have been discharged, of whom there were recovered, 124; improved, 11; incurable, 28; idiotic, 2; died, 36. Of the 343 admitted, 171 were single, 135 married, 26 widows, and 11 widowers. Arranged according to their ages at the time of admission, they are as follows:—Under 20 years, 13; between twenty and thirty, 137; thirty and forty, 91; forty and fifty, 61; fifty and sixty, 34; sixty and seventy, 6; over seventy, 1. Since going into operation, this asylum has received two hundred and eight applications for admission, which were necessarily refused for want of room, or because the patient was a non-resident of the state.

In the able and interesting report before us, Dr. Awl urges the importance of extending the accommodations of the asylum, so as more nearly to supply the wants of the community;—exhibits, by contrasting the expenses of chronic and of acute cases, the pecuniary advantage of early treatment; reports several interesting cases which have been under his care, and makes some valuable remarks upon the causes of insanity, the value of labour and of religious services in its treatment, and upon other topics connected with the general subject.

6. By the ample report of Dr. Stribling, it appears that the Western Lunatic

Asylum, of Virginia, is in a very prosperous condition. During the past year, an additional edifice, for the accommodation of sixty patients, has been erected. The necessity of this is demonstrated by the fact, that there have been 180 applicants for that department alone. The asylum can now accommodate 100 men and 41 women. The number of patients at the beginning of the year, was 69; admitted during the year, 53; total, 122. Discharged recovered, 15; eloped, 1; died, 6; remaining, 100. Two had recovered who had still remained in the asylum. "Our list of discharges," says Dr. S., "must be restricted almost exclusively to those who may recover, elope or die. By far the greater number of our patients are paupers, who were brought here in the chronic stage of insanity; and we are compelled by law, to keep them during life, or until cured."

From July 1, 1836, to November 1, 1841, the number of admissions was 131; of cures, 51; and of deaths, 21. From 1828 to 1841, inclusive, the average annual number of patients was 60; that of deaths, 3; mean per centum of deaths, 5. The report under notice contains an account of the present condition of many of the lunatics of Virginia, who have never enjoyed the benefits of a public institution. In this, the same fearful picture of misery and suffering, of imprisonment, manacles and chains, which has heretofore been depicted in other states, is again brought before the view, in all its hideous deformity.

7. Heretofore, it has not been customary for the officers of the Eastern Lunatic Asylum, at Staunton, Virginia, to publish an annual report, and the one now before us we suppose to be the first of a prospective series. We trust that, hereafter, the octavo or large duodecimo form will be adopted in preference to the quarto, that in which this is printed. Aside from the greater convenience to the reader, those smaller forms are generally adopted by other institutions, and, by establishing a uniformity in this respect, those who preserve these pamphlets are enabled to have them bound up together. On the 1st of July, 1841, Dr. John M. Galt assumed the duties of superintendent of this asylum. At that time it contained 109 patients, of whom 68 were men, and 41 women. A large majority of them were incurable. From the 1st of July to the 31st of December, of the same year, 14 were admitted, 11 discharged, and 15 died. Of the 11 discharged, 9 were cured, and one so far improved as to recover in a short time afterwards. In this report, Dr. Galt recommends several judicious innovations, and evident improvements in the organization and discipline of the asylum. It is with pleasure that we perceive this institution adopting the modern improvements, and commencing that intercourse with the community and with other asylums, which can be effected through the medium of reports alone.

8. The annual reports of the public institutions of the United States, have acted as powerful instruments in awakening public sentiment in favour of the Insane. This increasing interest has entered the ranks of the Medical profession, and is manifested by the greater attention devoted by writers, to the subject. We have two pamphlets which have recently appeared, that of Dr. Coventry, and that of Dr. Jarvis. Dr. Coventry, in his lecture before the Young Men's Association of Utica, does not, we presume, profess to throw any new light upon the subject, but rather, by condensing into the narrow compass of a lecture, as great an amount as possible, of truths with which we are already familiar, to illuminate minds hitherto unenlightened in regard to the disease. He treats upon the causes, symptoms, pathology and treatment of insanity, the location, construction and organization of asylums, and subsequently, gives the statistics of the disease in the state of New York, followed by a history of the asylum at Utica. According to his exposition, even after the present building, which will accommodate from 250 to 300, shall be filled, there will be 1555 lunatics and idiots in the state, unprovided for by the public institutions.

The prevailing doctrine of the pathology of the disease is given in the language of Dr. Bottex. In this generally valuable lecture of Dr. C., there are, in a few instances, assertions of a somewhat too sweeping or exclusive a character. Of this kind is the following: "*All* the modern writers on insanity consider it a disease of the brain; at first functional, but, if it permitted to go on,

producing changes in the organization of this organ, in which state the disease is generally incurable." From this assertion we must except Leuret and some of the German authors. Without assuming the prerogative of philological criticism, we may venture to express a doubt whether the following sentence conveys the idea intended by the writer. "In the McLean Asylum, patients frequently have an attendant, whose whole attention is devoted to himself." There are many attendants who would rejoice in a possession of a situation of that kind!

9. A few months since, Dr. Edward Jarvis, of Louisville, Kentucky, published an essay on insanity, and Insane Asylums, of which a bibliographical notice appeared in the last number of this Journal. More recently, the author has published a pamphlet entitled, "What shall we do with the Insane of the Western country." The object of this, as may be inferred from the title, is to awaken the attention of our Western neighbours, and bring them to a decision upon "what shall be done with the four thousand four hundred and forty-one lunatics and idiots that live in the valleys of the Ohio and the Mississippi." In pursuance of this object, Dr. J. examined the condition of those insane and idiots in reference to their curability. He then demonstrates the utility of removing them from their houses, supporting the proposition by quotations from several authors. Having discussed the merits of confinement in prisons, of travel, and of boarding in private families, and shown the first to be "worse than useless," and the last two to be ineffective in a great majority of cases, he arrives at the conclusion that "the Hospital" is the most appropriate resort, and furnishes the most effective means for treatment. The progress of asylums for the insane is traced, and, in connection with the question, how far the existing institutions can be available for the lunatics of the West, most of those institutions are described. From this description we extract the following, inasmuch as it will explain the unsatisfactory results of treatment in the asylum of which it speaks.

"The Kentucky Lunatic Asylum was established before the late discoveries had shown how far this disease is controllable by attention, skill, and most faithful and tender watchfulness, in conjunction with variety of occupation. The original plan did not include a physician exclusively devoted to the institution; nor workshops, nor riding, nor reading, nor a great variety of attendants. Nor was labour at first designed as one of the great means of improvement. A chaplain and religious worship were not then considered necessary for such an institution. A physician is engaged to visit the asylum once a day; but his pay for this is so small that he cannot neglect his general practice to spend much time among the lunatics. A few attendants are employed, rather to guard and wait upon the patients, than to be their companions, to guide their thoughts and control their feelings. Since the establishment of this asylum, the state has not altered the original plan, nor provided officers, attendants and means according to the spirit of this improved age. But an effort is now making in the legislature to obtain such farther grants and privileges from the state, as will place this institution on as good a foundation as the best in the United States."

In a note appended to the essay, the author remarks, "We are informed that there is no doubt that the legislature will grant to this asylum all the facilities that its warmest friends desire—a well-paid physician, a sufficient corps of attendants, and lands and shops for the occupation of the patients."

After this review of asylums, Dr. J. proceeds: "From this examination, we are led to the melancholy confession of the want of due provision for the comfort and the cure of the insane sufferers of the western country. In this broad and rich valley, from the Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico—from the Alleghanies to the Rocky Mountains, embracing a sane population of five millions, and lunatic population of more than four thousand, with no deficiency of wealth, skill, or benevolence, we have but four asylums for the insane. And these could not contain a tithe of all who might be subjected to their influence, and not a fourth of those who could be benefited by them. We ought to have public asylums in Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas and Mississippi. And, besides these, we want another asylum in the West, one of more elegant accommodations than

ought to be expected in any state institution;—a hospital to be planned and constructed, furnished and administered, according to the best ideas of the present age.”

The author describes what this asylum should be in its construction and organization, giving the opinions of various authors in regard to the most suitable plans for buildings of the kind. This well written essay of Dr. Jarvis, in connection with the preceding one by the same author, both exhibiting profundity of research and extensive reflection upon the subjects discussed, is admirably calculated to effect the benevolent object which stimulated the writer to its composition.

10. By the following extract from the report of Dr. Rockwell, it will appear that the Vermont State Asylum has been enlarged. “We rejoice in the enlargement of our building the past season. We have suffered for the want of sufficient accommodations. Our prospects are now fair that we shall be able to receive all who may apply for admission.”

The number of patients in this asylum at the beginning of the year was 81. Admitted during the year, 84; discharged, 70; remaining at the end of the year, 95. Of the 70 discharged, 35 were recent cases, of which 31 recovered, and 1 died; and 35 were chronic, of which 10 recovered, and 3 died. During the five years that the asylum has been in operation, 323 patients have been admitted, and 228 discharged. The whole number of recoveries is 138, and of deaths, 15.

11. New York, an Amazon among the sister states in regard to extent and population, proved herself, years since, to be equally majestic in regard to internal improvements, and still preserves the characteristic in her noble efforts for the relief of her suffering insane. The State Pauper Lunatic Asylum at Utica, projected a few years since, and its front building now nearly finished, will accommodate, when completed, *one thousand patients*. No British Asylum is calculated for so great a number; the largest, that of Hanwell, having rooms for about nine hundred; and of the continental institutions, Salpêtrière alone, unless, perhaps, we may include Bicêtre, is equally commodious.

In May, 1841, the legislature of New York authorized the appointment of a Board of Trustees, a subordinate committee of which should be required to visit asylums for the insane in New York and other states, “inquire into their government, organization and internal arrangements, and submit to the legislature a system for the government, discipline and management of the State Lunatic Asylum.” The Report of the committee appointed in pursuance of this act, is now before us—the giant of its genus, as is the institution to which it relates. With its appended documents, it forms an octavo volume of 233 pages. The committee give a succinct sketch of the history of insanity, and an outline of the modern mode of treatment; discuss the question of what classes of patients should be received into the asylum at Utica, and some other topics in connection with the subject. After speaking of the important duties devolving upon the superintendent of such an institution, they proceed as follows:

“Where is the individual whose high and varied qualifications, moral, intellectual and physical, in rare but indispensable combination, fit him for such multifarious duties? To whom is such a sacred and momentous trust to be confided? To an active, charitable, conscientious man of good sense and mild manners, with perfect self-command and a thorough knowledge of human nature:—to a well-educated physician, of tact, firmness and experience, familiar with the improved medical and moral treatment of insanity; to an energetic philanthropist, of calmness and decision, of moral and physical courage, who is never weary of doing good, whose benevolence can make the lunatic a companion and friend, in all the essential qualities of reciprocal confidence, mutual forbearance, fellow-feeling and rational counsel, and whose refined sense of duty ‘guides even kindness and affection in their ministrations, and holds the balance as scrupulously in deciding on the moral rights of the insane, as on the civil rights of other citizens.’ That such a person can be found, the trustees confidently believe.”

Whether Dr. Woodward, of the Massachusetts State Lunatic Hospital,

was before the "mind's eye" of the writer of this extract, we do not know, but we more than half suspect it to have been the case, as well from the likeness of the picture as from the fact that the gentleman in question has received the appointment to the place referred to.

The report contains a system of rules and regulations for the asylum at Utica—a table of the insane of the United States, according to the late census—similar tables of the insane of the State of New York, by counties, according to both the national and the state census—a statement of the number of lunatic paupers confined in jails, &c., at public expense, throughout the state—a specification of the plan of the asylum and estimates of the expense of furniture. Among the appended documents are, a description of the insane asylums in actual operation in the United States—letters from the superintendents of most of those asylums, giving much general and specific information in regard to them—extracts from the published reports of asylums, from "a visit to thirteen asylums, in Europe," and from the report of the commissioners of the Massachusetts State Lunatic Hospital—a sketch of the labours of Pinel, and an article from the Report of the Prison Discipline Society, illustrative of "important principles adopted by the superintendents of insane asylums in the treatment of the insane." Such is a synopsis of the contents of the publication before us. Under these several heads is found a large portion of actual knowledge of the most judicious discipline and government of hospitals for the insane, the proper method of treatment, and several other kindred or collateral subjects. It is to be hoped that this report will be widely circulated in the United States, since, should it fall into judicious hands, it would act as a powerful stimulus to energetic measures in behalf of lunatics in those states which, hitherto, have taken no steps towards the melioration of the condition of that unfortunate class. It may serve, also, as a guide to future commissioners or boards of trustees, rendering their labours comparatively trifling, by presenting to them, already collected, digested and condensed, a vast amount of facts necessary to a faithful fulfilment of their duty.

P. E.

ART. XV.—*The Pharmacopœia of the United States of America, by authority of the National Medical Convention held at Washington, A. D. 1840: 8vo., Grigg & Elliot, 1842.*

THE proceedings of the Convention for the revision of the Pharmacopœia, which met in January 1840, have been placed before the public through the medium of this and similar journals; it is therefore unnecessary to detail the initiatory steps taken to secure the execution of the work for which that body was organized. The only feasible plan was the one adopted—the appointment of a committee to whom the revision was entrusted, and from the hands of this committee the present revised edition has emanated. The delay in publication has arisen from circumstances which rendered it expedient for the advantage of the work, and which were inseparable from the course which the committee were authorized to pursue: the whole ground of the subject had not only to be gone over, but as assistance was solicited from associations capable of rendering it, a length of time was unavoidably consumed in awaiting their contributions, and these again required deliberate consideration. As the sources whence these contributions proceeded are the pharmaceutical bodies of all the cities where such combinations exist, namely, of New York, Boston and Philadelphia, and particularly as most important aid was afforded by the College of Pharmacy of the latter place, from which an amendment of the whole Pharmacopœia, by a special committee, was obtained, the present work possesses the recommendation of being the production of both the bodies interested, the medical and pharmaceutical, and by both should therefore be assumed as authority.

The general outlines adopted in the edition of 1830 have been preserved in